



Does Britain's pledge go too far?

M.P.s are anxious

Express Political Correspondent

A DEMAND is likely to be made in Parliament for Mr. Eden to explain why Britain should be accepting military commitments in Europe which are thought to exceed those undertaken by America.

Tories as well as Socialists, including Mr. Shinwell, former Socialist Defence Minister, are concerned because Britain has pledged herself to give automatic military aid to all members of the European Defence Community the moment any of these countries are attacked. No such pledge has been given by America. Or will be given without the approval of Congress.

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On Monday in the House of Commons Mr. Eden sought to reduce anxiety by implying that Britain's pledge was merely the formalisation of a situation which had long existed, and that in effect the U.S. was similarly committed by the provisions of the North Atlantic Treaty.

M.P.s who have now studied more closely the text and terms of the North Atlantic Treaty are not satisfied that this is so. They point out that under the terms of the North Atlantic Treaty America is committed to send Europe only such help as Congress "deems necessary". Whereas Britain, under the E.D.C. pledge would be committed automatically to send "all the military and other aid and assistance in its power".

The question which is troubling M.P.s is this:—What would happen if after the U.S. presidential election in November Congress decided that the aid "deemed necessary" for Europe would be all aid short of military assistance? It is an answer to this question, as well as a clarification of Britain's situation, that they now seek from Mr. Eden.

THE GENERAL'S BOMBSHELL

Russia will have H-bomb by 1954

Peace menace year will be 1954

THE AMERICANS' BOMBFLASH

Troops crouch 3 miles from atom blast

Hot wind hits observers ten miles off

'RUSSIA SPEEDS H-BOMB' Stockpile in 1954, says general

From R. M. MacCOLL: Washington, Tuesday
GENERAL CARL SPAATZ, America's wartime Chief of Air Staff, warned tonight that Russia will definitely have the hydrogen bomb by 1954.

"That will be zero year," he said. "It will bring the greatest menace to world peace—the moment of supreme crisis and danger."

An H-bomb is theoretically 1,000 times as powerful as an atom bomb and Spaatz said that Russia would "undoubtedly" have stockpiles of both.

"With Soviet possession of these weapons in quantity, 1954 and the next year will be a time of the greatest tension," he declared.

General Spaatz was addressing the Senate's War Preparedness Committee. He caused a sensation when he pulled from his pocket and read a secret memorandum which he wrote as World War II ended.

In this he said Russia was the great enemy of the West, and must be watched.

The West should have no truck with her, and should not be fooled by any peace overtures.

As an indication of Russia's present air power, Spaatz reminded the Senators that the Soviet sent 900 MIG jet fighters to reinforce Red Chinese forces in Korea. America could send only 150 jet reinforcements in a comparable period.

Spaatz called a proposed "stretch-out" in U.S. plane production "an inexcusable risk." He said plane manufacturers should be "forced" to build fighters and bombers to keep pace with Russia.

Once America had overwhelming air strength she could "force" a conference showdown with the Kremlin. But delay would lead to more and more Korea-type incidents, any one of which might set off World War III.

All-out now
When he finished his evidence Spaatz told me: "Russia is working all-out now on this moment, on the hydrogen bomb."

She expended her first atom bomb more quickly than many people expected.

"You can also take it that Mr. Fuchs (the British atom spy) is working all-out now on this moment, on the hydrogen bomb."

General Spaatz made an enormous impression on the Senators, and his warning overshadowed the excitement caused by today's American test.

The possibility that Russia may get the hydrogen bomb first is looked upon by Americans as a matter of life or death to the West.

FLASHBACKS (ATOMIC)—MUSHROOM TO MUSHROOM



MUSHROOM Bikini, 1946 WATERSPOUT Bikini Lagoon, 1946 TIN-HAT At Eniwetok Atoll, 1951 MUSHROOM Yesterday

The overlanders set out...

DARWIN, Tuesday. Rancher Jack Macmillan set out today to drive 1,000 head of cattle out of the drought-stricken Northern Territory to 1,200 miles along an old overland trail to market. Drought has dried up the regular stock route.—Express News Service.

So meat waits

WELLINGTON, Tuesday. —New Zealand's freezing plants are full of meat and fruit which cannot be sent to Britain because of a shortage of refrigerator ships.

At midnight

BUENOS AIRES, Tuesday. —The Argentine's meat pact with Britain, under which she sells beef at £128 a ton, expires at midnight tonight.—Reuter.

Sterling visit

CAPETOWN, Tuesday. —South Africa's Finance Minister, Mr. N. C. Havenga, will visit Britain in August for sterling talks.—Express News Service.

Home leave for Korea men this year?

BRITISH troops now in Korea, it is hoped, will get home leave this autumn. The question was raised in the Commons last night. Mr. S. Awhery (Soc., Bristol Central) asked the War Minister if he was aware that the men of the 1st Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry, now in Korea, were promised leave after 16 months—that they have served in Hongkong for 21 months and in Korea for 11 months? When would they get home leave? Colonel J. Hutchinson, Under-Secretary, War Office, replied: "I know of no such promise, and to give one would be contrary to War Office policy."

'SLUM MINISTER' Bevan taunts Macmillan

By WILLIAM BARKLEY

MR. BEVAN, who once dealt with housing, looked down from the eminence of his Commons back bench on front-bench Mr. Macmillan last night and said: "He calls himself a Housing Minister. He is a slum Minister."

He was stung to make the remark when Mr. Macmillan, looking up at him, said: "I am surprised that he comes back for punishment on the housing question. We are ready for him."

Mr. Macmillan moved the second reading of the Housing Bill, which increases the average council house subsidy from £16 10s. to £26 4s. largely to meet the increased rates of interest which local authorities pay to borrow money.

The Bill also authorises a £15-a-year subsidy for 40 years for "old" agricultural houses.

Mr. Macmillan said that the Government was ready for Mr. Bevan.

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6-day guillotine, say Socialists

The Opposition tabled amendments to the Government's guillotine motion last night calling for six days instead of two for the remaining stages of the National Health Bill. The Liberals will vote against the Government.

Spain offers army

INDIANAPOLIS, Tuesday.—The Spanish Ambassador, said in Indianapolis today that his country is willing to join the Atlantic pact and could offer a 2,000,000-man army.—B.U.P.

WALTER WANGER



JAILED 4 MONTHS

Express Staff Reporter

NEW YORK, Tuesday.—Film star Joan Bennett's husband, 57-year-old producer Walter Wanger, was convicted at Santa Monica, California, today of "an assault with a deadly weapon" on his wife's agent, Jennings Lang.

He shot Lang in the thigh last December in a Hollywood car park.

Almost apologetically, Judge Harry W. Borde sentenced Wanger to four months in the county jail—not to start till next June 4, so that the sentence would not interfere with his night-dinner engagements he keeps with his youngest daughter, seven-year-old Stephanie.

THEIR DATES

The judge agreed with Wanger's observation through his lawyer, Jerry Gelsler, that Stephanie would miss their "dates," which he had been keeping up since the shooting.

He recommended that the sentence be served at a farm or camp instead of in jail.

There was great provocation caused by rumour and gossip about the court's hands are tied, Judge Borde commented.

The evidence falls far short of proving an intention to commit murder, and there was no such intention at the time.

An attempted murder verdict carries a penalty of from one to 14 years.

"However, the rule of the six-shooter has been over for years in California," four jurors said.

Wanger claimed, after shooting 33-year-old Lang, that Lang broke up his home.

Forty-one-year-old Joan Bennett said relations with Lang were strictly business. And he was strictly business in court today.

Wanger turned up in what Hollywood calls the "Wanger uniform"—dark grey double-breasted suit and black tie.

He did not exchange a word with his lawyer—during the entire proceedings, but stood nervously clenching his fists.

When sentence was pronounced, lawyer Gelsler, who defended Charlie Chaplin and Errol Flynn, turned on his heels and, without a word, walked out of the courtroom, followed by Wanger.

"He was not ill outside and well away from the courthouse that both men smiled. And then it was for the benefit of the photographers."

Surrender call

SINGAPORE, Tuesday.—Airplanes will drop 250,000 leaflets over Selangor State, Malaya, tomorrow, calling on terrorists to surrender.

Mutineers fall out over hostages

From NEWELL ROGERS: New York, Tuesday

TWO of the 179 convicts making a last stand in the rioting at Southern Michigan Jail were clubbed and stabbed today after a furious row in which they protected 11 warders held as hostages.

The two convicts, Ellsworth Roberts and James Parmentier, were dumped outside the door of cell-block 15—known as "The Hole"—like bags of flour.

Earl Ward, their 28-year-old robber leader, brandished a knife over them like a pirate captain casting off two mutinous followers. Then the cell door closed again.

Armed police—600 of them with bayonets fixed to their rifles—watched helplessly.

For Ward, who is serving a 30-year sentence, is known officially as "completely unstable." A word from him and the hostages would die.

Afterwards Ward went to a window and held up what he called evidence that convicts had been beaten up by brutal warders.

Hose pipe... There was a piece of rubber hose with a shoe lace round one end; a leather strap with an eight-inch chain; and a "wrist-breaker," resembling a crude set of handcuffs.

Then tense parleys were held over the cell-block phone, in the murder of 54-year-old Mrs. Beatrice Rimmer at her home in Waverly. Their execution was postponed from March 18.

Two prisoners were given "safe conduct" to announce their surrender terms.

One of them said the guards would be released on assurances that brutality would end, prisoners would be segregated better, and that lighting and living conditions improved.

Julian Frisbie would not allow the demands to be broadcast over the jail public-address system. He did not want the mutineers to know that one convict was killed yesterday when 2,000 inmates rioted.

But Ward shouted angrily from the cell-block: "We know an inmate was killed yesterday. We warned there would be reprisals if a single inmate was killed."

The men don't like it. They're upset. There may be trouble. So far the men are safe.

Outside the prison gates wives and children of the warders knelt and prayed for the safety of the hostages. Later one of them was freed.

Later the prison broadcast was made by Russell Jarbo, one of the "safe conduct" men. He appealed to the other mutineers to halt further violence until the complaints of conditions at the prison could be investigated.

Away at Rahway, New Jersey, 231 convicts in the State prison there surrendered on the fifth day of their mutiny.

Last Thursday night they seized their dormitory, and took eight guards as hostages.

Water, food, and lights were cut. For 15 hours the men had almost no food. Meekly they freed the hostages—unarmed. Then they gave in.

Korda resigns
Sir Alexander Korda, Britain's leading master of the film maker, has resigned from the British Film Producers' Association because of proposed changes in the organisation.

Up and down
NEW YORK, Tuesday.—A sudden weakness in oil and rails smothered a recovery movement today. Some issues lost three to six dollars a share.

And no one saw JCD999
FOR 20 days a man drove round the South of England in a car with a number known to every policeman. But no one noticed it.

Mr. Leslie Gordon Ridge, 54-year-old master baker of Tudor-close, Hove, Sussex, left one of his shops in Brighton, saying: "I'll be back in five minutes. It's vanished and his wife reported a clear case of loss of memory."

NEW PLEA TO STOP HANGINGS

A SECRET memorandum is to be telephoned to London this morning in a new attempt to save Edward Devlin and Alfred Burns, due to hang on Friday.

It must reach the Home Secretary by 9 a.m.

The plea was drawn up in Liverpool late last night by Miss Rose Heilbron, Q.C., who defended Devlin at his trial, and four other lawyers.

Earlier the lawyers had sent a telegram to the Home Secretary asking for the executions to be postponed.

It said reasons were being submitted why a reprieve should be granted.

These moves followed a few hours after publication of a report by Mr. A. D. Gerrard, Q.C., who had been asked by the Home Secretary to inquire into the conviction of the men.

Mr. Gerrard said that in his opinion there has been no miscarriage of justice.

Devlin and Burns were found guilty at Liverpool Assizes of the murder of 54-year-old Mrs. Beatrice Rimmer at her home in Waverly. Their execution was postponed from March 18.

Unions warned: I'm boss

MR. RONALD BILL, a 48-year-old managing director, made it clear yesterday that he will run his factory—and not trade unions.

It all came up when 20 out of 60 sacked men were given their jobs back.

The sacked men—all members of the National Society of Metal Mechanics—were given an hour's notice after a four-and-a-half-hour strike at the Bill Switchgear Company, Birmingham.

They alleged that a 25 per cent. cut had been made in piece-work rates. But Mr. Bill said: "There has been no cut. We pay 25 to 50 per cent. above union rates."

"We have always been easy going. It's a happy firm. If a packet of cigarettes he goes—and nothing is said."

African delegates boycott talks

Express Staff Reporter

EIGHT African delegates from Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland decided last night to boycott the Central African Federation talks in London today.

Africans in both territories strongly oppose the proposed federation of their countries and Southern Rhodesia.

Only two African delegates will be at the talks—the two who arrived yesterday with Sir Geoffrey Huggins, Premier of Southern Rhodesia.

Lord Salisbury, Commonwealth Relations Secretary, and Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, were told of the boycott.

4 a.m. LATEST

CONVICTS HELP FIGHT FLOOD

KANSAS CITY, Tuesday.—Heavy rain making Missouri River floods worse. River has turned into lakes ten miles wide and key dykes are crumbling. Soldiers, airmen, and convicts from a federal prison are building up dykes near air base at Leavenworth, Kansas.—B.U.P.

CENTRAL 8000

after long discussions by the delegates, who are supported by their respective Governments. The delegates also had talks yesterday with an "official" delegates from the two territories who are here to focus British opinion on the African opposition.

Whitehall suggested the eight Africans should attend the conference as observers, but they refused.

Both Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia Africans fear the new federation will become a "White Man's Club" with an intention of the racial laws and discrimination they complain of in Southern Rhodesia.

The proposed federal parliament will have only four African M.P.s representing 6,000,000 Africans, while the 170,000 Europeans will have 28 M.P.s.

If seven men



... played seven men

At Rugger all day through,

What drink would most effectively

Their energy renew?

You bet there'll be a scrum to-night

For what is Good for You!

GUINNESS IS GOOD FOR YOU

G.E.109